



DPCC FACT SHEET: Rex Tillerson, a Friend to Russia with a Long List of Conflicts

- *Rex Tillerson has spent his career putting Exxon first, but the American people needs a top diplomat who puts America's security first.*
- *Advancing the financial interests of Exxon is not the same as protecting the national security of the United States.*
- *When we need someone to stand up to Russia, Rex Tillerson's personal induction into the "Order of Friendship" by Vladimir Putin raises troubling questions.*
- *Rex Tillerson and Exxon have fought against clean air, clean water, and clean energy for decades.*
- *Exxon just authorized a \$180 million payout for Rex Tillerson. Rex Tillerson is yet another addition to Trump's #RiggedCabinet*

Rex Tillerson Toasts Champagne with Putin While the United States Levies Sanctions on Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin awarded Tillerson with the Order of Friendship in 2013, a "high honor" for a foreigner. According to the U.S. intelligence community, Putin authorized hacking and meddling in the 2016 presidential election. Tillerson has a cozy relationship with the dictator—he's even been caught on video with Putin in 2012 "toasting each other with champagne" to celebrate an oil deal. [Washington Post, [12/13/16](#)]

Tillerson has a "close and personal relationship" with the "Darth Vader" of Russia. Igor Sechin, "perhaps the most powerful person in Russia" after Putin, is a former KGB officer, served in Putin's cabinet as Deputy Prime Minister and currently heads the Russian oil giant Rosneft. Tillerson is close with Sechin and has done billions of dollars in deals with the person referred to in the press as the "scariest man on Earth." [Washington Post, [12/13/16](#); Business Insider, [4/28/16](#)]

- **Sechin was sanctioned in 2014 over Russia's unlawful annexation of Crimea.** Sechin is currently banned from entering the United States and his assets here have been frozen. Sechin was sanctioned due to his role as a close confidant and ally of Vladimir Putin. [Treasury; [4/28/16](#)]

Tillerson opposed sanctions for Russia. Russia was recently further sanctioned by the United States Treasury for its interference in the 2016 presidential election. Tillerson has said

that Exxon does not “support sanctions, generally.” After Russia unlawfully invaded Ukraine, a sovereign neighbor, in 2014, Tillerson “lobbied against U.S. sanctions because Exxon would lose millions of dollars.” [AP, [12/14/16](#); Los Angeles Times, [12/10/16](#)]

Republicans are wary of Tillerson’s cozy ties with a foreign power like Russia.

- **Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) tweeted “Being a ‘friend of Vladimir’ is not an attribute I am hoping for from a #SecretaryOfState – MR.”** Rubio further reiterated “serious concerns about his nomination” in a prepared statement. [Twitter, [12/11/16](#); Rubio, [12/13/16](#)]
- **Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) said in a statement that “there are many questions which must be answered” about Tillerson’s ties with Putin and Russia.** [Graham, [12/13/16](#)]
- **Senator John McCain (R-AZ), when asked if there was a realistic chance he could support Tillerson’s confirmation, replied “Sure. There’s also a realistic scenario that pigs fly.”** [Houston Chronicle, [1/4/16](#)]

As Exxon CEO, Tillerson Fought Against the Environment and Clean Energy

Exxon’s public shift on climate change was “all P.R.” according to environmental watchdogs. Under Tillerson, Exxon acknowledged some risks of climate change and publically supported a carbon tax. But it spent \$27.4 million to kill the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, which would have established a cap and trade system on greenhouse gas emissions, “more than the entire pro-environment lobby.” According to a Harvard science historian, “the positions held by the company and Mr. Tillerson still constitute climate denial.” [New York Times, [12/28/16](#); OpenSecrets, [8/23/10](#)]

Tillerson on drilling: “My philosophy is to make money.” When asked by Charlie Rose in 2013 for his philosophy on drilling—“in Alaska, offshore, wherever it may be”—Tillerson responded that “if I can drill, and make money, then that’s what I want to do.” [Charlie Rose, [3/7/13](#)]

Tillerson fought to avoid paying penalties for the disastrous 1988 Exxon-Valdez oil spill. After a 19-year legal fight, Exxon eventually paid \$507 million—a significant reduction from the original \$5 billion jury ruling. In 2006, the Justice Department determined that Exxon owed an additional \$92 million for “persisting environmental impact” of the spill. Exxon refused to pay, and was taken to court [Reuters, [3/3/11](#)]

As CEO of Exxon, Tillerson Spent Millions to Rig Government Policies in Favor of Big Oil—Why Would He Stop as Secretary of State? **#RiggedCabinet**

Under Tillerson’s leadership, Exxon has spent millions lobbying the State Department every year. Exxon is “the top lobbyist in the oil-and-gas industry,” spending \$8.8 million on federal lobbying in the first three quarters of this year alone. Tillerson has “spent his entire career” at Exxon, and if confirmed would become responsible for directly overseeing trade and energy issues that Exxon has directly lobbied the State Department on this year. [Wall Street Journal, [12/13/16](#)]

At Exxon, Tillerson put business interests over American interests. Exxon's business dealings often put the company in conflict with American interests abroad, such as in Iraq and Russia. Tillerson stated that when working overseas, he "is not [there] to represent the U.S. government's interests" and that he "is not [there] to defend it." After he undercut the United States government on a Kurdish oil deal, Tillerson told the State Department that he "had to do what was best for [his] shareholders." [Rex Tillerson at U Texas BBA, [2/18/16](#); New Yorker, [12/11/16](#)]

Exxon flouted its own policies to give Tillerson a huge tax break. Exxon's corporate policy for executive compensation does not allow for cash payouts upon retirement. This goes for all employees, "no exceptions," "including the CEO." However, Tillerson will get a \$180 million payout for giving up his stock holdings in the company. [Fortune, [1/6/17](#)]

- **Exxon plans to structure the payments in a way that would allow Tillerson to "spread out taxes owed on his retirement package over the next decade instead of paying more than \$70 million immediately."** The structure would allow Tillerson to avoid paying taxes on it entirely in 2017 and take advantage of the proposed drastic Trump tax cut for the wealthy in the future. A tax expert calls it "one of the most aggressive and least successful tax positions executives have taken over the past two decades." [The Wall Street Journal, [1/11/17](#)]